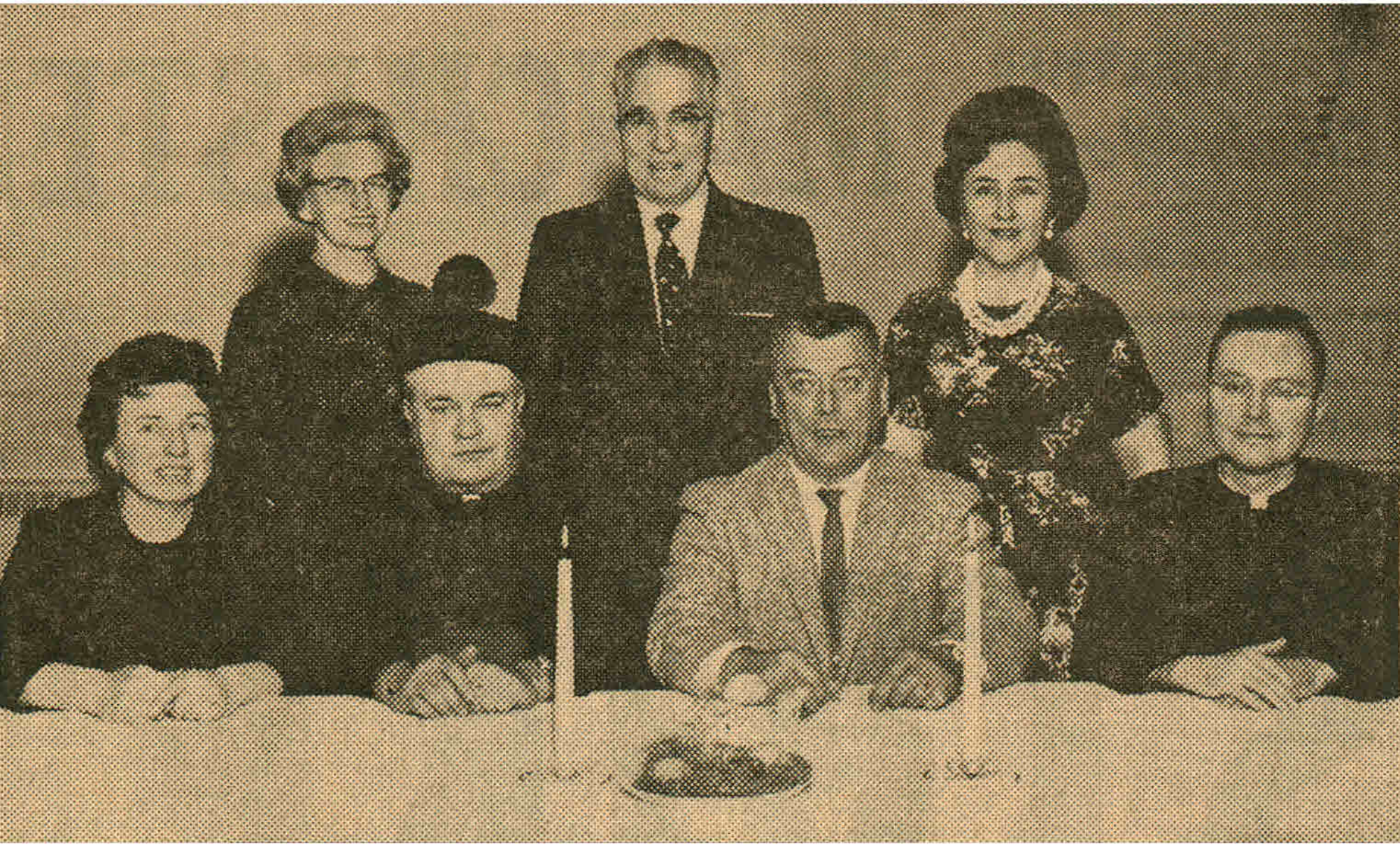


ANNUAL DINNER, the traditional "Swienconka" was held at St. Hedwig Church hall Sunday afternoon, sponsored by the St. Hedwig Church Building Fund Committee. Seated from left are Miss Helen Pieton, vice president; Rt. Rev. Msgr. Frederic R. Kaznocha, pastor; Stanley Szopa, president and Rev. Stanley E. Skora, assistant pastor. Standing are Miss Adele Wojnilowicz, auditor; Stanley Dydo, director and Miss Matilda M. Bykowski, secretary. (Staff Photo)

July 17, 1960

August 1, 1963

Polish American Citizens Close Home

By MAURICE McQUILLEN
Sunday News Staff

The Polish American Citizens Club, one of the city's most unique and colorful clubs, where one could not become a full-fledged member and enjoy a drink with friends until he earned his U.S. Citizenship, has quietly closed its home on Chestnut Street.

The two-story brick building is up for sale. The PAC has merged with the TTK Club, which has a newer building on Kosciuszko Street, directly behind the PAC.

The TTK is named for "The Father of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Gen. Thaseus T. Kosciuszko, the Revolutionary War hero whose fortifications on the Hudson River prevented British forces from cutting the colonial forces in two in a spearhead and pincer movement.

Plagued by declining membership, zooming local and state taxes on their operations and fuel bills, the merger route was the only way the two clubs and their societies could continue to survive a spokesman said.

BENEFITS

For years the two organizations have been selling off valuable real estate in the downtown area to be able to continue to pay death and sick benefits to members.

Lost in this retrenchment process has been housing for the elderly and poor.

The societies quietly reduced or let rent ride until circumstances improved, writing off the loss from their cash accumulations.

It was the late Attorney Purrell, who first came up with the idea of a Polish American Citizens club in the 1890s when there were many Polish immigrants coming to Manchester to work in the Amoskeag Mills. He personally taught them English and history and helped them get their Citizenship papers as rapidly as possible.

The PAC started in a vacant store on Birch Street where the Casimir Club is today. It accumulated an excellent library and hired teachers to help Americanize the waves of Polish immigrants arriving here. As incentives it established various degrees or stages of membership as a person applied for his first papers and earned his final papers and full membership rights.

In this era the area between Chestnut, Elm, Bridge and Lowell Streets was a "Little Poland" settlement.

The Cadilac Hotel then was owned by three early arriving Polish-Americans who were well to do. It was a glorified rooming house and boarding house, known as the Wawel, and a reception center for immigrants. They stayed here until they accumulated enough money to buy a piece of land to build and garden on or buy existing property.

Soon the west side of Chestnut Street became a Polish-American Center. The TTK and society, established in 1904, bought a three-story brick building at the corner of the back street. A fancy livery stable and carriage shop, it was converted into "The Polish Home." Here the TTK established first a grocery store and then a bakery, catering to the new arrivals who spoke only Polish.

CREDIT AID

"The Society" within the club, which operated these businesses, extended credit to all and carried them on "tick until pay day or whenever they could afford to pay.

Here too, before World War I engulfed the U.S., men were recruited in an Army to fight for Polands Independence. The TTK built its present home on Kosciuszko Street in 1939.

Since then both organizations have been retrenching, said Joseph Kosowicz, who serves as president of the merged organization.

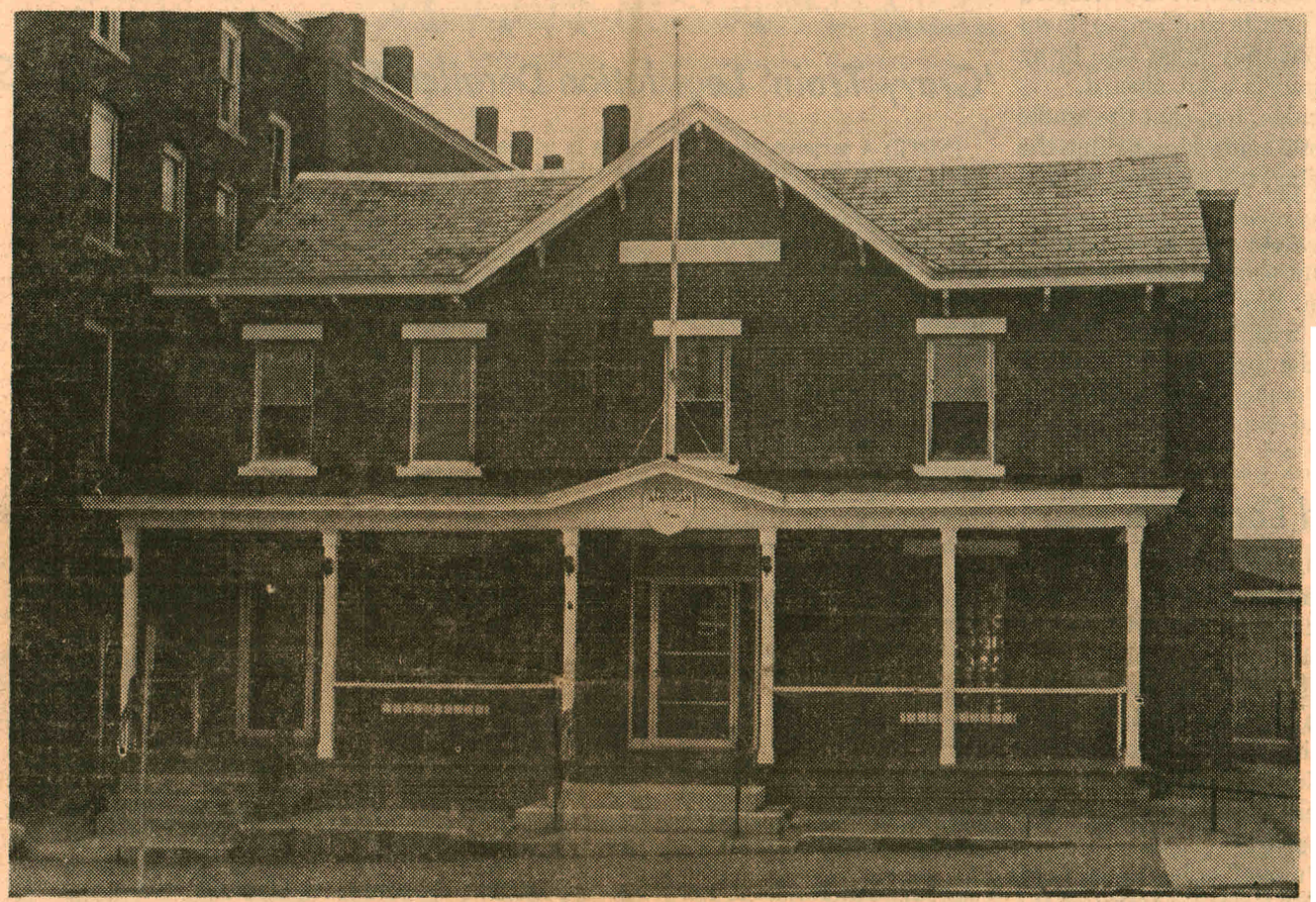
The TTK sold its bakery and three-story building on Chestnut Street to keep paying benefits to its society members.

The PAC sold its white frame rooming house and is now trying to sell its elegant club for the same reason. He stressed since 75 per cent of the members belong to both clubs and societies it made sense to merge to cut expenses in half. The merger took 18 months to accomplish.

Auxiliary Pres. Mrs. Julie Golabeski said the merged organizations plan monthly socials, the harvest dinner dance on Sept. 17 being the first. It is hoped thusly to bring back interest in the clubs, which with their auxiliaries now have about 1,000 members.

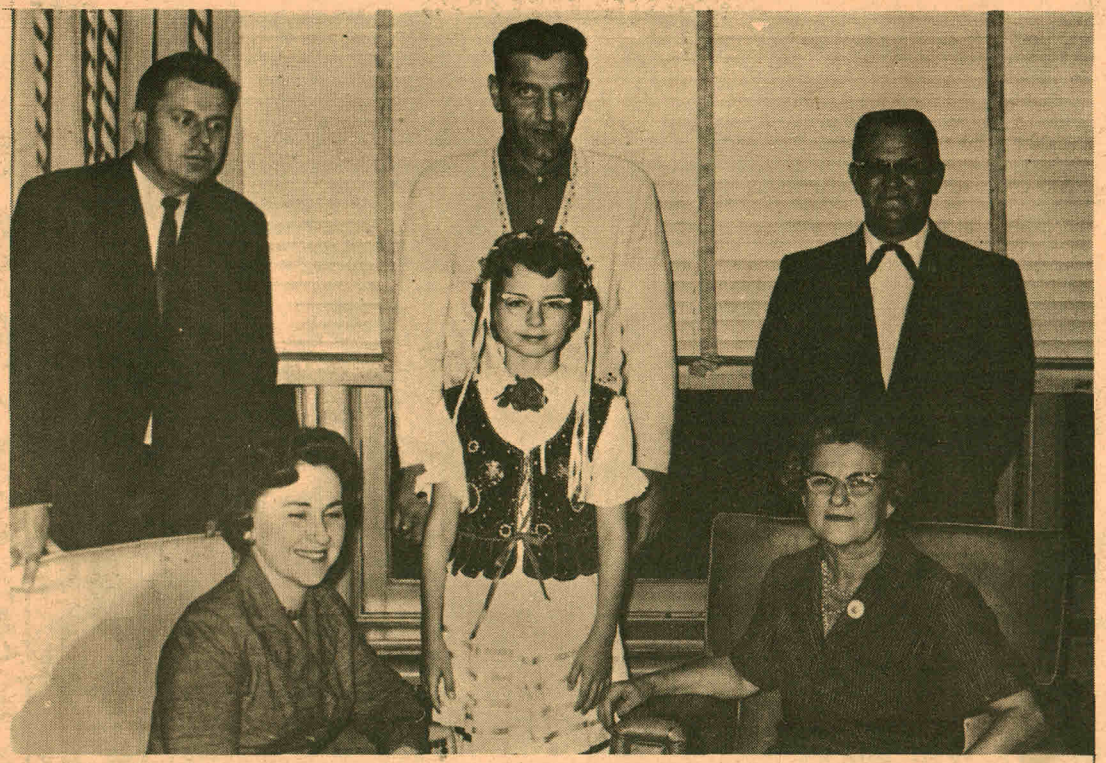
Anthony Kruczek, veteran financial secretary of both societies, recalled death benefits were originally $150 in the days when a funeral cost only $75 to $100 and sick benefits of payment of doctors bills plus $5 a week were pretty good in the era when people only made $10 a week working in the mills.

Today death benefits are $400.



POLISH AMERICAN Citizens Club on Chestnut Street has closed its doors and the building is now up for sale. Money from its sale will be used by Pac, which has merged with the TTK, to continue to pay death and sick benefits to Society members within the organization. U.S. Citizenship papers were once a requirement to gain full membership in the club. The building originally housed long defunct Knights of Pythias.

(Staff Photo by Maurice McQuillen)



TAKING PART IN THREE DAYS OF EVENTS are Miss Matilda Bykowski and Mrs. Genevieve McLoskey, seated, both members of St. Cecilia's Choir. From left to right, standing, are John Berdechowski, committee president, Edward Guzowski, Sunday parade marshall, and John J. Gladysz, musical director. Cathy Berdechowski, center, will recite a poem honoring the Revolutionary hero in Polish on the Channel 9 TV program Tuesday at 7 p.m.

Three Days of Events Scheduled As Groups Observe Pulaski Day

Twenty-five years have passed since the Pulaski Monument was unveiled in Pulaski Park at Bridge and Pine Sts. in Manchester. In honor of this silver anniversary, a Pulaski Day Committee with representatives from all Manchester's Polish organizations will have three days of events.

Joseph Berdechowski, committee president, announces a TV program on Tuesday at 7 p.m. over Channel 9, two celebration balls on October 12, church masses, a parade, and a banquet on Oct. 13. Such VIP's as two congressmen and a senator will be on hand to congratulate the Polish community.

Gov. John W. King will proclaim Pulaski Day throughout the state next week. Two young girls in Polish national costume as well as Manchester's Mayor will be decorating the equistrian statue of Gen. Casimir Pulaski with wreaths.

OVER THE AIR

Directing the Oct. 8 TV program is Musical Director John Gladysz, assisted by Miss Matilda Bykowski. St. Cecilia's Choir will be featured, along with a review of Pulaski's life by John Turczyn, a history of the monument and park in which it stands by Edward Guzowski, and a recitation in Polish by 11-uear-old Cathy Berdechowski.

Her father, the chairman, will read the governor's proclamation and thank the participating organizations. Mayor John C. Mongan will announce Pulaski Day for Manchester at this time, too.

WEEKEND EVENTS

Two anniversary balls at both the Casimir and Pulaski Clubs are scheduled for a week from Saturday at 8 p.m. by Guzowski. He is not only in charge of the dances but is also serving as publicity chairman.

All Polish-Americans are invited to attend high masses at 10:30 a.m. the following day at both Holy Trinity and St. Hedwig's Churches. They will meet at noon for the Pulaski Day parade in front of Manchester St. clubhouse.

Frank Piecuch, parade marshall, announces the route from there as a starting point, up Elm Street to Bridge, turning up that street to Pulaski Park. Many of the marchers will be wearing colorful costumes as they keep step in the parade to the music of John Gladysz' bwnd.

CEREMONIES WINDUP

At the statue, a tribute will be paid to the late Joseph Gladysz, chairman of the 1938 executive committee, which conceived the memorial. Mrs. Helen Kokoszka will be the soloist, while Miss Matilda Bykowski will render the concluding number. Rt. Rev. Joseph Soltysiak of Holy Trinity Church will offer the invocation and benediction.

Cong. Thaddeus Dulski, of Buffalo, N.Y., Sen. Norris Cotton, Cong. Louis Wyman, and Gov. King or his representative will give short congratulatory messages. Mayor Mongan and Berdechowski, with the help of two young Polish girls, will lay the memorial wreaths.

The windup will take place with a 2:30 p.m. banquet for 300 guests at the Pulaski Club. Here New Hampshire's Asst. Atty. Gen. Alexander Kalinski and Cong. Dulski will be the keynote speakers.

LARGE COMMITTEES

The six main cooperating organizations are the Polish Fish and Game Club, headed by Joseph Ciesla; the Polish-American Club with Joseph Mroz as president; TTK Club led by John Furman; the Polish Legion of American Veterans, commanded by Walter Szopa; and the Casimir and Pulaski Clubs whose presidents are Vincent Klocek and Frederick Dziura respectively.

John Berdechowski heads a large Pulaski Day committee, whose vice-president is Walter Klapsa. Other officers are Henry Karwacki, Stanley Sobolewski, Genevieve McLoskey, and Carolyn Barrett.

Pulaski Baseball Banquet
Oct 4-1948
Pulaski Club

Parade, Speeches Mark Tribute Here To Gen. Pulaski

October 11, 1965

Organizations Honor Career of Dedicated Ally of Early America

By MAURICE McQUILLEN

Brig. Gen. Casimir Pulaski, the wealthy Polish nobleman who sacrificed his fortune and life for the cause of freedom in the American Revolutionary War was saluted here Sunday in impressive Pulaski Day exercises.

It was 186 years ago today that "The Father of the U.S. Cavalry" was fatally wounded in the Battle of Savannah on Oct. 11, 1779 while leading a cavalry charge.

General Pulaski made the supreme sacrifice at the age of 31.

Spent Own Fortune

The wealthy. eldest son of a Polish count, he gave up a life of luxury and came to America which was fighting for its independence and freedom. He brought cavalry horses to this troubled land and spent his personal fortune and energies in helping America win freedom.

U.S. Sen. Thomas McIntyre, who was the main speaker, stressed how Pulaski's ideals coincided with the New Hampshire state motto, "Live Free or Die."

He pointed out that "at the age of 21, Pulaski had fought for freedom in his native Poland against a Russian puppet government."

Gov. John W. King read his Pulaski Day proclamation during ceremonies held in front of the equestrian statue in Manchester's Pulaski Park, named fro the Revolutionary War hero.

The governor pointed out that nearly 200 years after Pulaski first began to fight for freedom in Poland, young Americans are still fighting and dying for the same principles on foreign soil.

"We can pay no greater tribute to General Pulaski than to resolve to wholeheartedly support our courageous President and our fighting men in South Viet Nam," he declared.

Tells of Visit

Mayor Roland Vallee told the gathering he had visited Warsaw during his recent trip behind the Iron Curtain and that the flame of freedom still burns in the hearts of men and women there. He predicted that the Iron Curtain will one day fall and Poland will be free again."

State Sen. Louis I. Martel represented Cong. J. Oliva Huot, who was unable to attend, and addressed the gathering in Polish. Mrs. Henrietta Peltak of the Polish Legion of American Veterans Auxiliary also addressed the gathering in Polish, recapitulating the highlights of his illustrious career.

Representatives of 15 Polish - American organizations and five additional veterans organizations composed of Americans of all ethnic backgrounds joined in the salute to Pulaski.

Ceremonies opened with a colorful parade from Pulaski Hall on Manchester Street to Pulaski Park on Bridge Street. Polish marches, seldom heard. were played by a band from Local 349 of the American Federation of Musicians directed by John Gladysz, son of the chairman of the Pulaski Monument Committee of 30 years ago which secured the park and statue.

St. Casimir School had a large marching delegation of boys and girls attired in colorful traditional Polish costumes. There were also marching delegations from all Polish - American patriotic, social and cultural organizations in the city and the Catholic War Veterans, Henry J. Sweeney Post 2 and Manchester Post 79 of the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Disabled American Veterans.

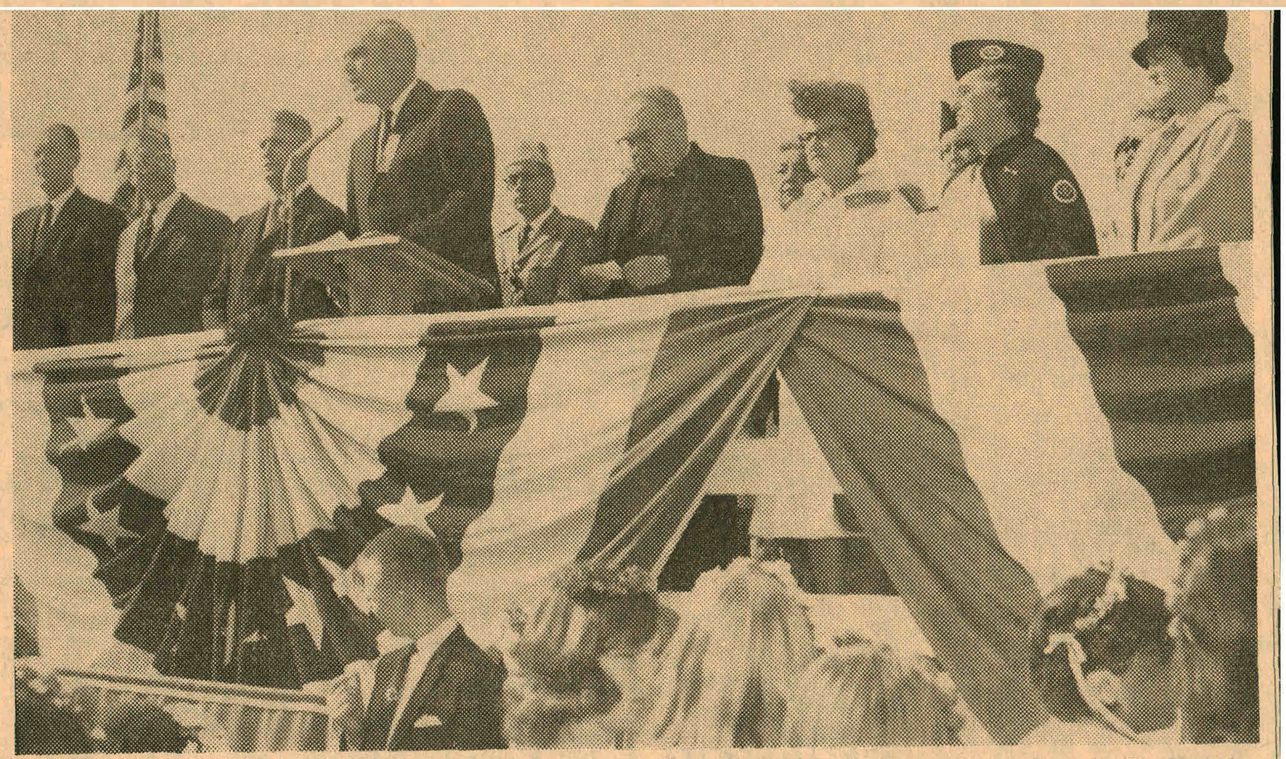
Escorted were two huge wreaths, one from the Pulaski Day Committee and one from the city of Manchester Which were placed at the base of the Pulaski monument.

Invocation at Pulaski Park was by the Rev. Frederick R. Kaznocha, pastor of St. Hedwig Church. Miss Matilda Bykowski sang "The Star Spangled Banner," the U.S. National Anthem, and Mrs. Helen Kokoszka, the Polish National Anthem.

Henry Karwacki, a former member of the state Board of Education, was president of the celebration committee and served as master of ceremonies.

Vice president was a modern day Polish - American hero. John Turczen, who was a political prisoner in Poland at the outset of World War II. Arrested by the Gestapo and thrown in a concentration camp, he was liberated by Americans in Austria. He joined the Polish Army Corps and fought under the British and Americans before coming to America in 1951, sponsored by veterans.

Participating in the program, which opened with church service and was climaxed with dinners and open house at the various Polish - American groups headquarters were: Pulaski Club and Auxiliary, the Polish Legion of American Veterans and Auxiliary, Polish American Fish and Game Club, St. Hedwig Post of the Catholic War Veterans, Polish American Citizens Club and Auxiliary, the Casimir Club and Auxiliary, the TTK Club and Auxiliary and various allied groups.



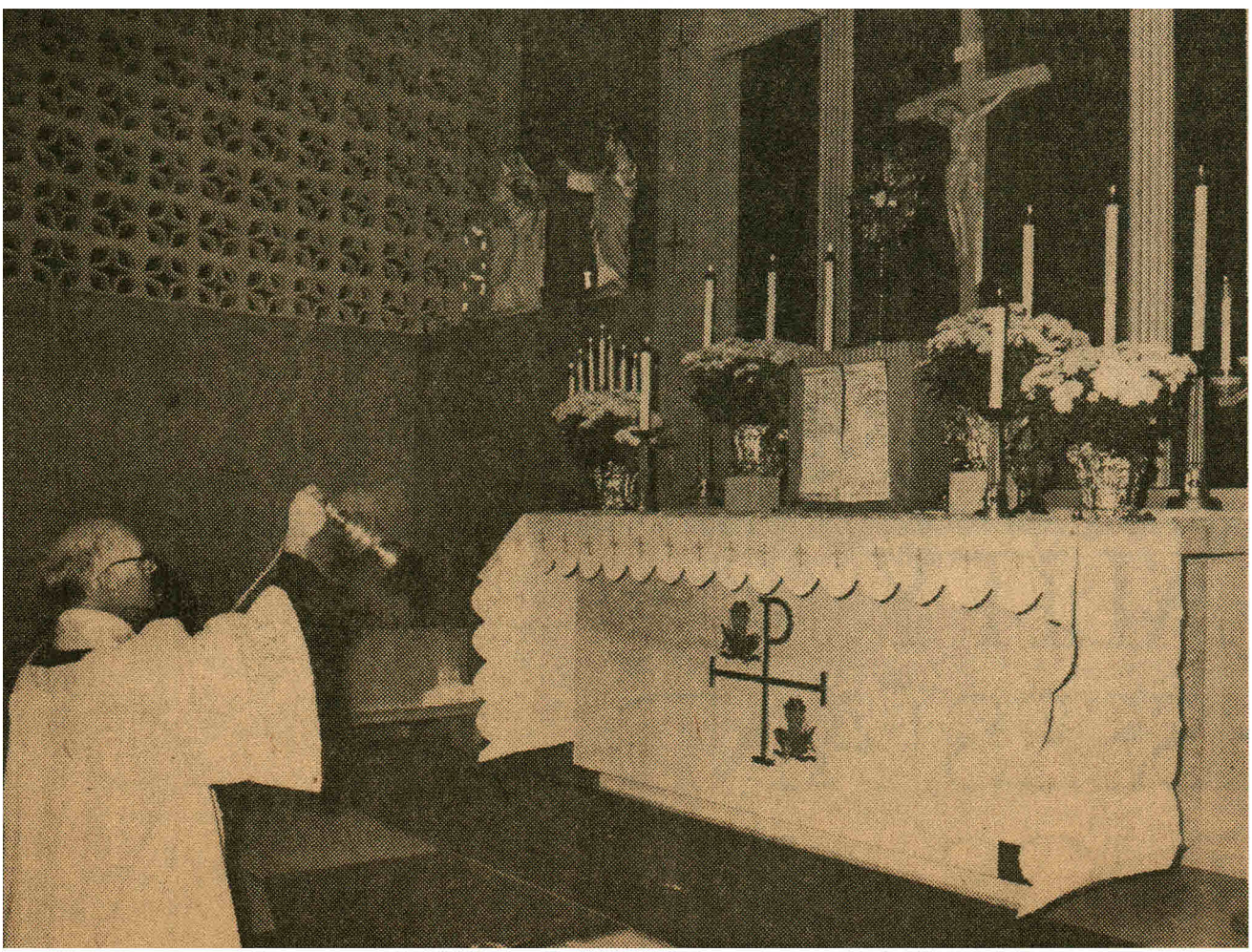
PULASKI DAY OBSERVANCE was held Sunday with a parade and ceremonies at Pulaski Park. Participating in the event were from left U. S. Sen. Tom McIntyre, principal speaker; Gov. John W. King, State Sen. Louis I. Martel, who represented U. S. Rep. J. Oliva Huot; Henry Karwacki, master of ceremonies; Dept. Comdr. Jules Trudel, Catholic War Veterans; Rev. Frederick R. Kaznocha, pastor of St. Hedwig parish; who gave the invocation; Mrs. Genevieve McLoskey, secretary; Mrs. Henrietta Peltak, who related in Polish highlights of Gen. Pulaski's life and Mrs. Irene Dudziak, committee member.

(Staff Photo by Maurice McQuillen)

October 17, 1978

POLISH AMERICANS rejoice at the selection of Krakow Archbishop Karol Wojtyla as the new leader of the Roman Catholic Church. Among those expressing delight at the choice of a Polish Pope are first graders at St. Casimir School, from left, Jennifer Bacon, Sharon Poirier, Kevin Beliveau and Dan Ptak, who are admiring the portrait of Pope John Paul II shown to them by their principal, Sister Mary Emilitte, CSF. (Staff Photo by George Naum)

October 17, 1978



THE REV. ALFRED "DAN" DANISZEWSKI, pastor of St. Hedwig's Church on Walnut Street, opens the three day celebration (triduum) for the patron saint of St. Hedwig, which began yesterday, the day the first Polish Pope was elected.

(Photo by Chris Herbert)

November 10, 1965

Sets Smorgasbord

A smorgasbord, sponsored by the St. Casimir PTO, will be held Saturday, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at St. Hedwig Parish Hall on Orange Street.

Tickets are $1.25 with proceeds to benefit the St. Casimir School library.

Many Attend Services

Final Rites Conducted For John D. Betley

Relatives, friends, World War II comrades, city and state officials and business associates crowded into St. Hedwig Church today to pay final respects at services for John D. Betley, 50, of 722 Chestnut St., victim of a stabbing incident.

The solemn requiem high mass at 9 a. m. was celebrated by Rev. Frederic R. Kaznocha, pastor of the church, with Very Rev. Msgr. Colin A. MacDonald, as deacon, and Rev. Stanley E. Skora, assistant pastor of St. Hedwig Church, sub-deacon.

The mass was sung by a quartet, with Miss Matilda Bykowski as soloist and Rev. Sister Mary Anastasia of the Felician Sisters, organist.

Previous to the mass Father Skora recited prayers at the Bykowski Funeral Home, where the large funeral procession had assembled.

Bearers were officers of St. Hedwig Post 1341, Catholic War Veterans, of which Mr. Betley was a member. They were Stanley Fryc, Stanley J. Zajdel, Frank Piecuch, Henry Saindon, Leo A. Courchesne and Roger Dubreuil.

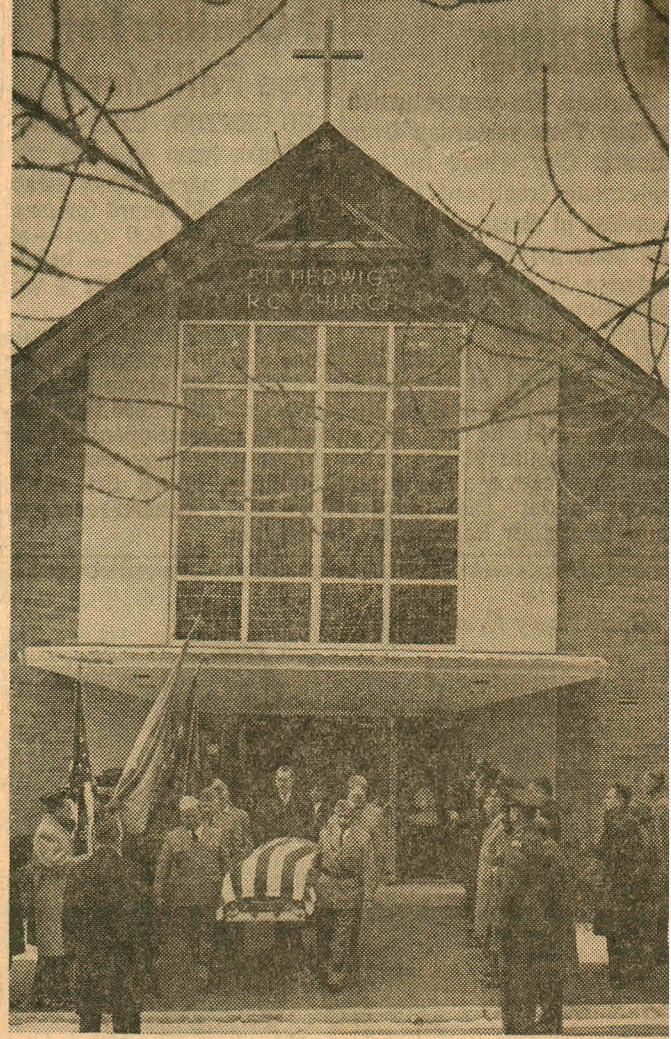
Honorary bearers included members of the New Hampshire Chapter of the National Association of Architects of which Mr. Betley was a past president, and others. They were Andrew C. Isaak, George C. Soule, Joseph F. Lampron, Nicholas Isaak, Richard Koehler, John D. Sullivan, Alexander Majeski, Paul Seiffert and James D. Pananos.

Delegations included Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus; members of the Henry J. Sweeney Post No. 2, American Legion, and the Post Firing Squad; St. Hedwig Post No. 1341, Catholic War Veterans, color bearers; St. Edmond Post No. 1699, CWV, the BPR Society and Pulaski Club.

Mr. Betley was born in Manchester and was prominently associated with architectural work in Manchester and other areas of the state which stand as memorials to his life. At the time of his death he was a member of the Manchester Planning Board.

Burial was in St. Hedwig Cemetery, with committal rites conducted by Father Kaznocha and Father Skora. Military tribute at the grave was paid by veterans in Queen City posts.

Funeral arrangements were under the direction of the John J. Bykowski Funeral Home.



FUNERAL CORTEGE of John D. Betley, architect, leaves St. Hedwig Church which he had designed. Flag-draped coffin is borne by Catholic War Veterans of St. Hedwig Post 1341, of which Mr. Betley was a member. (Chris Goudas Photo)

Date of Funeral: December 18, 1963

December 23, 1966

TRADITIONAL POLISH CHRISTMAS SUPPER called "Wigilia" was held at the St. Hedwig Parish Hall. More than 350 attended the building fund benefit supper which was marked by the breaking and sharing of wafers and serving of the meal on a symbolic bed of straw. Seated, left to right, are Mrs. Genevieve McLoskey, banquet chairman; Rt. Rev. Msgr. Frederic R. Kaznocha, pastor; Rev. Stanley E. Skora, assistant pastor; and Miss Matilda M. Bykowski, secretary and assistant chairman. Standing are Stanley Szopa, president; Egan Chmielewski, Mrs. Dorothy Ayotte, and Treasurer Henry A. Machos, members of the committee.

PROGRAM

1960 FESTIVAL OF POLISH CHOIRS 1960

at

ST. ADALBERT'S CHURCH
HYDE PARK, MASS.

1. GATHERING OF CHOIRS IN LOWER CHURCH HALL - 3:45 P.M.
2. VESPER SERVICES - 4:00 P.M.
3. SINGING IN LOWER CHURCH HALL - 4:45 P.M.

ORDER OF SINGING

1. St. Hedwig's Church, Manchester, N. H.
2. Holy Trinity Church, Lawrence, Mass.
3. Our Lady of Ostrobrama Church, West End, Boston, Mass.
4. St. Michael's Church, Lynn, Mass.
5. St. Michael's Church, Haverhill, Mass.
6. Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, South Boston, Mass.
7. St. Adalbert's Church, Hyde Park, Mass.

4. MEETING OF PRESIDENTS AND CHOIR DIRECTORS (only)
5. DINNER IS SERVED !!!!
6. DANCING IN REAR OF CHURCH

Veterans Banquet
May 22-1948
at T.T.K. Hall

Cribbage Banquet
May 26, 1948
Pulaski Club

Parish Plans Gala Weekend

St. Hedwig Parish societies are completing plans for a gala weekend, Sept. 17 and 18, celebrating the burning of the mortgage on the new church and the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Polish-American parish.

JFK Coliseum on Saturday evening, Sept. 17, will be the scene of a social, banquet, and dance. A reception and social hour from 5 to 6 p.m. will be followed by a banquet, and dancing to the music of the Polka-Knauts from Palmer, Mass.

Sunday morning at 10:30 a. m. there will be a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated in the church by Rev. Alfred Daniszewski, pastor, and a mortgage burning ceremony.

Tickets for the Saturday evening program are now on sale after every mass at the church on Saturdays and Sundays and from committee members.

Co-Chairmen of the celebration are Stanley Gorski, Stanley Szopa, and Henry Machos, with Father Daniszewski as honorary chairman.

Miss Matilda M. Bykowski is serving as secretary of the general committee and Miss Helen Pieton as ticket chairman and Mrs. Genevieve McLoskey as assistant ticket chairman.

Msr. Ann Machos is hall and decorations chairman while Stanley Lacheta is in charge of refreshments. Mrs. Stella Gorski is banquet chairman. Serving on the welcoming committee are Mrs. Sophie Beserdetsky, Frank Piecuch, and John J. Gladysz.

Other members of the general committee are: John Walas, Stanley Zajdel, John Turczyn, Stanley Krycki, Mrs. Gertrude Wales, Mrs. Helen Krzystyniak, Stanley Dydo, Mrs. Kathy Philbert, John Makara, and John Chmielewski.

August 14, 1977